

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/624,489

Examiner

Shew-Fen Lin

Applicant(s)

VIERICH ET AL.

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/18/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12, 14-17, 19-21 and 24-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application  |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>20070214</u> . |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>9/25/2006</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment  |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                    | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                         |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

- a. This action is taken to response to amendments and remarks filed on 12/28/2006.
- b. Claims 13, 14-17, 19-21, and 24-27 are pending and claims 1-4, 7-10, and 22-23 have been cancelled by Applicants.

#### *Examiner's Amendment*

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney John Harris on February 15, 2007.

Please amend the claims, which was filed on 12/28/2006, as follows:

12. (Currently amended) A computer-based drill-through path administration method for use in a framework having a plurality of drill-through sources and drill-through targets, the method comprising steps of:

- a) defining the drill-through sources and targets at least in part by a metadata, the metadata at a single point, describing drill-through objects and valid drill-through paths using data structures;

Art Unit: 2166

- b) displaying the drill-through sources and targets;
- c) accepting from a tool user an indication of the drill-through sources and targets for which a drill-through path is required; and
- d) for each source for which a drill-through path is required;
  - i) importing the source;
  - ii) for each drill-through path, associating the drill-through source and target using the metadata;
  - iii) collecting the drill-through path in a data structure;
  - iv) accepting from a tool user an indication to select one or more drill-through paths in the data structure;
  - v) accepting from a tool user an indication to edit the selected drill-through paths to select appropriate parameters; and
  - vi) encapsulating the selected drill-through paths in a program library;

wherein the step of accepting from a tool user an indication of the drill-through sources and targets for which a drill-through path is required uses a graphical user interface whereon the tool user draws lines connecting nodes representing the drill-through source and target for the drill-through path.

17. (Currently amended) A computer-based drill-through path administration system for use within a computer-based business modeling tool having a framework comprising

Art Unit: 2166

drill-through sources and drill-through targets, the drill-through path administration system comprising:

a) means for defining the drill-through sources and targets at least in part by a metadata, the metadata at a single point, describing drill-through objects and valid drill-through paths using data structures;

b) means for displaying the drill-through path sources and targets;

c) means for accepting from a tool user an indication of the drill-through sources and targets for which a drill-through path is required;

d) means for importing the source for each source for which a drill-through path is required;

e) means for associating the drill-through source and target using the metadata,

f) collecting the drill-through path in a data structure;

g) means for accepting from a tool user an indication to select one or more drill-through paths in the data structure;

h) means for editing the selected drill-through paths to allow a tool user to select appropriate parameters; and

i) means for encapsulating the selected drill-through paths in a program library;

wherein the means for accepting from a tool user an indication of the drill-through sources and targets for which a drill-through path is required uses a graphical user

interface whereon the tool user draws lines connecting nodes representing the drill-through source and target for the drill-through path.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 12 and 17 each recites, among other limitations, the limitation of "a metadata, the metadata at a single point, describing drill-through objects and valid drill-through paths using data structures" to define drill-through path using a common metadata.

It is noted that many prior arts (for example, Bedell et al., US Patent 6,801,910) teach using drill map for different drill action, but none of them teaches this limitation of "a metadata, the metadata at a single point, describing drill-through objects and valid drill-through paths using data structures" to define a single point metadata for drill-through path. The patentability of Applicants' invention was examined and evaluated against the prior art listed below. These prior art are considered pertinent to the subject matter of Applicants' invention, as discussed next,

- Poggi, Valerie S., US 6569205 B1, "Method and system for report presentation and navigation in a computer system", (...defining relationships between the multiple reports and the multiple components, and visually representing the relationships on a currently displayed report).
- Olap Train, Reed Jacobson, "Microsoft® SQL Server™ 2000 Analysis Services Step by Step", Microsoft Press, 2000.

Art Unit: 2166

However, none of the prior art of the record teaches or suggests, independently or in combination, the combination of claimed elements including the specific features recited by the independent claims, 12 and 17 as indicated above.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification and are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shew-Fen Lin whose telephone number is 571-272-2672. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2166

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shew-Fen Lin  
Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2166  
February 15, 2007

  
**HOSAIN ALAM**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**